



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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APPROVED BY 107PCHABIB

ID:ORTOUSSAINT

WM-MR.HYLAND

S/S-RGAMBLE

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, VN

SUBJECT: VIETNAM MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM HABIB

1. ON PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTION, GOVERNOR SCRANTON AT NOON TODAY TOLD PRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD VETO VIETNAM'S UN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BECAUSE THE SRV FAILED TO MEET THE UN CHARTER'S MEMBERSHIP TESTS ON HUMANITARIAN AND PEACE-LOVING GROUNDS.

2. LATE THIS AFTERNOON, AMBASSADOR SHERER LEARNED FROM THE FRENCH CHARGE IN NEW YORK OF THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS:

-- VIETNAMESE AND FRENCH HAD GOTTEN TOGETHER IN PARIS AND AGREED TO SEEK POSTPONEMENT OF THE SRV MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION UNTIL NOVEMBER

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-- VIETNAMESE MISSION IN NEW YORK WAS ADVISED OF THIS AGREEMENT BY TELEPHONE FROM THE MISSION IN PARIS.

3. BEFORE CALLING THE COUNCIL'S PRESIDENT TO REQUEST

POSTPONEMENT, THE FRENCH NOTIFIED USUN AND ASKED FOR OUR REACTION. AFTER CHECKING WITH SCOWCROFT, HABIB AUTHORIZED SHERER TO RESPOND THAT US HAS NO OBJECTION TO FRENCH GOING AHEAD TO CONVEY TO THE SC PRESIDENT FRANCE'S REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT. USUN WAS TOLD TO TELL FRENCH THAT OUR COMMENT SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS INVOLVING ANY FUTURE COMMITMENT ON OUR PART.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE FRENCH CHARGE TOLD SHERER HE GOT IN TOUCH WITH THE LIBYAN PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL. THE LIBYAN HAS CALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 14 IN LIEU OF COUNCIL MEETING. AT THAT TIME, HE WILL ASK FOR AGREEMENT TO POSTPONEMENT SINE DIE. WE WILL CONCUR. WE UNDERSTAND FROM FRENCH THAT SRV HAS INFORMED THE SOVIETS AND CHINESE OF THEIR AGREEMENT TO POSTPONEMENT. THE LIBYANS TOLD THE FRENCH THAT NEITHER THE CHINESE NOR THE SOVIETS OFFERED COMMENTS.

5. ASSUMING POSTPONEMENT IS ACHIEVED, WE INTEND ADOPTING A PRESS LINE AS FOLLOWS:

-- WE CONCURRED IN THE POSTPONEMENT, AS DID OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL;

-- WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN THE MATTER WILL AGAIN BE CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL;

-- (IF ASKED) AS TO OUR FUTURE VOTE, WE WILL CONSIDER THAT WHEN THE TIME COMES. OUR DECISION WILL BE BASED UPON OUR JUDGEMENT REGARDING VIETNAMESE QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP.

ROBINSON

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